

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6215

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2053

STADIS//////////

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FOR AF/W - SMITH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MR (OULD DADDAH, MARIEM)

SUBJECT: PRIVATE VISIT OF MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT'S WIFE TO U.S.

REF: STATE 209798

1. SPENT 90 MINUTES AUGUST 25 WITH VISITING GIRM
AMBASSADOR KOCHMAN ON MADAME MARIEM OULD DADDAH'S
PRIVATE VISIT TO U.S. BY END OF SESSION, AMBASSADOR'S
VERY FUZZY PLANNING WAS BEGINNING TO TAKE PRECISE FORM.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HIS EXTRAVAGANT TRAVEL AMBITIONS
SUCCUMBED TO MILEAGE AND SCHEDULING REALITIES OF
WESTERN U.S., AND HIS WASHINGTON SOCIAL SCHEDULE TO
MADAME'S PREFERENCE FOR PRIVATE SIGHTSEEING OVER
FORMALITIES WHICH CAPITAL CITIES IMPOSE ON VISITING
FIRST LADIES. FORMAL DINNER SCHEDULED FOR EVENING
SEPTEMBER 14 IS TO BE SHIFTED BACK TO SEPTEMBER 14
IN ORDER TO CUT WASHINGTON SEGMENT FROM SEVEN TO FIVE
DAYS. PROJECTED VISITS TO LAS VEGAS AND YELLOWSTONE
HAVE BEEN SCRAPPED. BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES HAVE BEEN FIRMLY
FIXED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MADAME OULD DADDAH.

2. AS OF 1500 AUGUST 25, VISIT ITINERARY IS: ARRIVE
WASHINGTON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12; SIGHTSEEING AND CALLS,
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FORMAL DINNER TUESDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 14; DEPART

MORNING SEPTEMBER 16 FOR ARIZONA ARRIVING PHOENIX LATE AFTERNOON; VISIT PHOENIX AND ARIZONA UNIVERSITY PROGRAM SEPT 17 AND 18; DEPART PHOENIX VERY EARLY SUNDAY SEPT 19 BY BUS (OR LIMOUSINE) FOR GRAND CANYON; DEPART GRAND CANYON MID-MORNING SEPT 20 BY PLANE FOR LOS ANGELES, ARRIVING LA LATE AFTERNOON; SEPT 21 AND 22 IN LA TO SEE HOLLYWOOD AND VISIT DISNEYLAND; DEPART LA EARLY MORNING SEPT 23 BY PLANE FOR SAN FRANCISCO, ARRIVING BEFORE NOON; AFTERNOON OF 23RD AND AT LEAST MORNING OF 24TH SIGHTSEEING SAN FRANCISCO; DEPART SF FOR NEW YORK AFTERNOON OR EARLY EVENING SEPT 24; DEPART NYC SATURDAY SEPT 25 FOR NOUAKCHOTT BY BEST AVAILABLE AIR CONNECTION (NYC-DAKATBV NYC-PARIS-DAKR; NYC-PARIS-DAKAR-NOUAKCHOTT; NYC-PARIS-NOUADHIBOU-NOUAKCHOTT; NYC-CASABLANCA-NOUAKCHOTT).

3. RE WASHINGTON SEGMENT: KOCHMAN ASKED ME TO PASS FOLLOWING REQUESTS TO YOU:
(A) DELIVER TELEGRAM RE CHANGE IN DINNER DATE TO HIS WIFE (SEPTEL);
(B) REQUEST AF FRONT OFFICE TO REVISE ASST. SECY. SCHAUFLE'S CALENDAR ACCORDINGLY;
(C) ASK DR. DINNERSTEIN OF ARIZONA UNIVERSITY TO COMPRESS PROJECTED THREE-DAY VISIT INTO TWO;
(D) ARRANGE BRIEF CALLS ON SECRETARY CARLA HILLS AND CONGRESSWOMAN BOGGS; AND
(E) PROCEED WITH EFFORT TO "ARRANGE SOMETHING" WITH RETIRED FSO AND EX-EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT STAFFER FAVILLE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY DIRECT QUESTION RE MADAME'S PREFERENCES ON PERFORMING AND GRAPHIC ARTS (PARA 6 REFTEL), KOCHMAN REPLIED "THAT'S ALL SETTLED. WASHINGTON PROGRAM IS TO BE JUST AS I DISCUSSED IT WITH SMITH. MY WIFE IS ARRANGING A THEATER EVENING." IF WE CAN IN FACT SCHEDULE SECOND MEETING IN NEXT DAY OR TWO, I MAY GET ANOTHER CRACK AT THIS ONE SINCE AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERED COMMENT THAT HE MIGHT SEEK MY REACTION TO PRESENT PLAN FOR DC SEGMENT. ON BASIS OF LITTLE WE KNOW ABOUT MADAME'S PERSONAL TASTES, I SUSPECT SHE WOULD MUCH PREFER EVENING
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AT STEAMBOAT LOUNGE LISTENING TO CHARLIE BYRD OR BAYOU LISTENING AND DANCING TO DIXIELAND OR MR. HENRY'S TO BOX AT KENEDY CENTER OPERA HOUSE, LIBRARY CONGRESS CHAMBER MUSIC, OR THEATER IN ENGLISH. EVENING SPENT SEEING NATIONAL MONUMENTS BY FLOODLIGHT, PARTICULARLY IF IT INCLUDED OUTDOOR CONCERT BY MILITARY BAND, MIGHT STRIKE HER FANCY, AND GIVE HER IDEA FOR GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERTAINMENT FOR ORDINARY CITIZENS OF

NOUAKCHOTT.

5. RE WASHINGTON SEGMENT OR FOR SANDWICHING INTO SIGHTSEEING SCHEDULE IN OTHER PLACES AROUND COUNTRY: MADAME'S ACCENT IS ON YOUTH. SHE COULD THEREFORE BE EXPECTED TO TAKE INTEREST IN OBTAINING INSIGHT INTO SCHOOLS AND JOBS AND LEISURE OF AMERICAN YOUNG PEOPLE. DISCUSSION OF OUR PRAGMATIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM COUPLED WITH VISITS TO MULTI-TRACK HIGH SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR DISCUSSION AND OBSERVATION OF SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS OF BOTH SEXES AGED 18 AND CULTURAL/ARTISTIC TRAINING AND STUDENT PRODUCTIONS MIGHT BE POSSIBILITIES. SOME MONTHS AGO BOTH PRESIDENT AND MME OULD DADDAH RECALLED WITH SPECIAL WARMTH OVERNIGHT VISIT THEY MADE SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO HOME OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR. BOTH WERE DELIGHTED AT OPPORTUNITY TO SHED PROTOCOL AND BE TREATED AS ORDINARY TOURING VISITORS INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT U.S. AND GETTING TO KNOW AMERICANS. STRONGLY RECOMMEND REPEAT WHENEVER FRENCH-SPEAKING AMERICAN FAMILY CAN BE FOUND. TWO DAYS AT U OF A WOULD APPEAR TO BE REAL POSSIBILITY.

6. RE ARIZONA SEGMENT: I VERY MUCH HOPE DEPARTMENT AND ARIZONA UNIVERSITY WILL PUT AS MUCH EMPHASIS ON ARID AREA AGRICULTURE AND UNFOLDING SOLAR TECHNOLOGY AS ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS. IT WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY USEFUL IF PRESIDENT'S WIFE COULD BE EXPOSED TO UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR HEATING BUILDINGS AND HOME AND HOTEL WATER SUPPLIES AND CONVERSION OF SEA AND BRACKISH WATER VIA SOLAR DESALTING PLANTS AT BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND VILLAGE LEVELS. COMBINATION SOLAR SEA WATER CONVERSION AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECT ARIZONA
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UNIVERSITY DESIGNED AND BUILT FOR ABU DHABI, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE APPLICATION HERE. THUS DETAILED DESCRIPTION/EXPLANATION PLUS VISIT TO SIMILAR PILOT OR FUNCTIONING INSTALLATION COULD HAVE REAL PAYOFF -- FOR U.S. AND FOR MAURITANIA.

7. BIOGRAPHIC MATERIALS PREPARED FOR EACH OF FOUR OFFICIAL VISITS MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT HAS MADE TO WASHINGTON SINCE C. 1960 MAY CONTAIN SOME INDICATION OF MADAME'S ACTIVITIES PREFERENCE YMMHLH SEMEL WWNZ# ONB ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN PICK UP. MEANWHILE, IT MAY HELP TO RECALL THAT SHE IS VERY INTELLIGENT AND PERCEPTIVE MODERN WOMAN (SEE NOUAKCHOTT 2029), AND SHOULD NOT BE "TALKD ZDC#" EVEN ON HIGHLY TECHNICAL SUBJECTS; THAT SHE HAS THREE SMALL CHILDREN AGES 4 TO 10; AND THAT IF SHE KNOWS ANY ENGLISH

AT ALL, IT IS VERY RUSTY. THUS A PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETER IS
IN ORDER FOR ANY WHITE HOUSE OR CABINET OFFICER VISITS.

HNADYSIDE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOUAKCHOTT 2053. #PARA 7 AS RECEIVED.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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